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10

REBIRTH

VOLUME 10

STORY AND ART BY

WOO

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Translation - Jennifer Hahm
English Adaptation - Bryce P. Coleman
Copy Editor - Troy Lewter
Retouch and Lettering - Louis Csontos
Production Artist - James Lee
Cover Layout - Patrick Hook

Editor - Bryce P. Coleman
Digital Imaging Manager - Chris Buford
Pre-Press Manager - Antonio DePietro
Production Managers - Jennifer Miller and Mutsumi Miyazaki
Art Director - Matt Alford
Managing Editor - Jill Freshney
VP of Production - Ron Klamert
President and C.O.O. - John Parker
Publisher and C.E.O. - Stuart Levy

A TOKYOPOP® Manga

TOKYOPOP Inc
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

E-mail: info@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com

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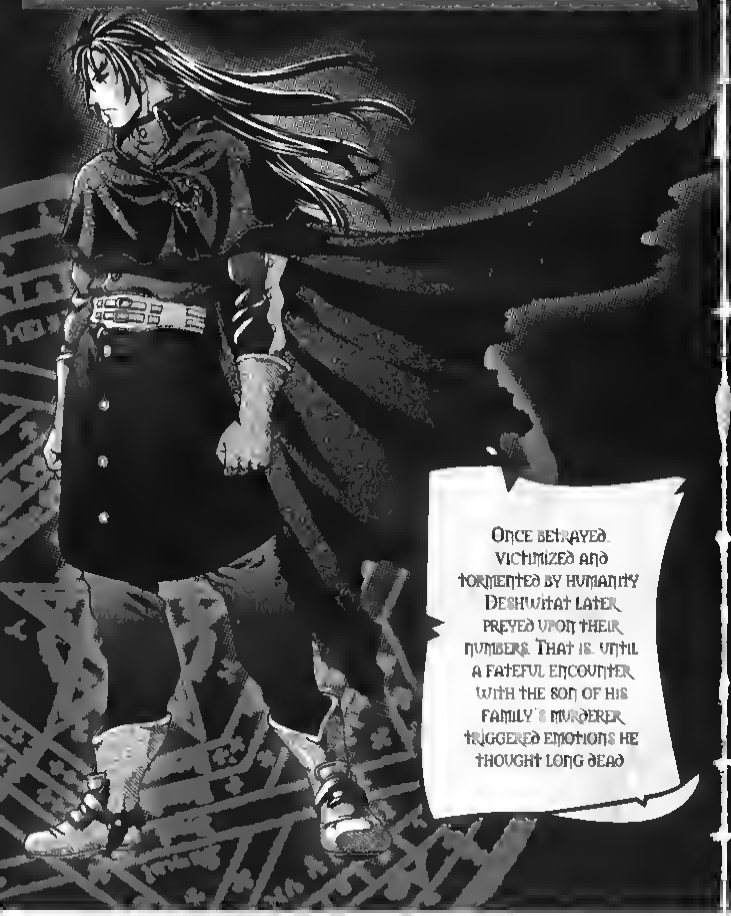
Story Thus Far

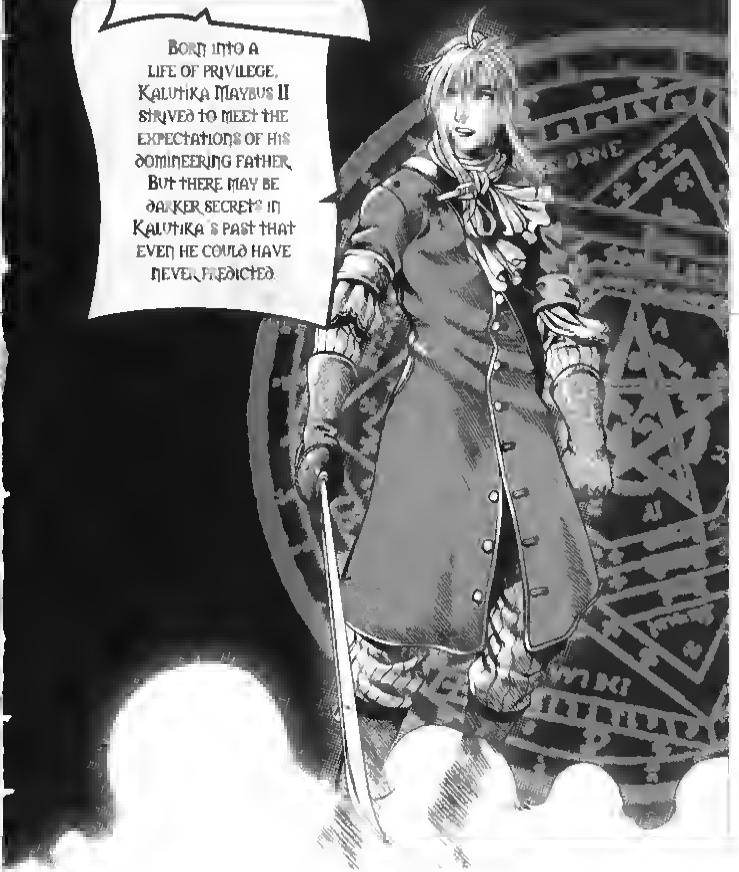
The mid-seventeenth century—Eastern Europe:
Once the scourge of all humankind, Deshwitat L. Rudbich has at last found that which he thought he would never have again—friendship. This unlikely fellowship consists of Kaluthka Maybus, now a Captain in the Church's Sacred Knights Brigade. Then there is the boisterous Rett Butler, whose prowess on the battlefield nearly rivals that of the vampire himself. But for Deshwitat, the most cherished is the young maiden Lilith Servino, the girl who, years before, had been the only person to ever treat the caged boy-vampire with kindness. For the first time in decades, Deshwitat may truly be happy. But it is to be the calm before the storm...
Even now, unseen forces are at work to shape the future of Kaluthka for some terrible apocalyptic purpose. To that end, the power mad Cardinal Josimov has sent his minions to seek out and destroy the one man who may stand in the way of the Verkadh cult's insane plans...the vampire Deshwitat.

DESHWITAT—THE VAMPIRE



Once betrayed, victimized and tormented by humanity, Deshwitat later preyed upon their numbers. That is, until a fateful encounter with the son of his family's murderer triggered emotions he thought long dead.

KALUTIKA—THE SOLDIER



Born into a life of privilege, Kalutika Maybus II strived to meet the expectations of his domineering father. But there may be darker secrets in Kalutika's past that even he could have never predicted.

RETT—THE HELLRAISER

THE IMMORTAL ROGUE RETT BUTLER, HAS YET TO BACK AWAY FROM A FIGHT—OR A COMELY WENCH. AS KALUHKA'S RIGHT-HAND MAN, RETT IS MORE THAN READY TO TAKE ON ANY VILLAIN, HUMAN OR OTHERWISE, THAT COMES HIS WAY.

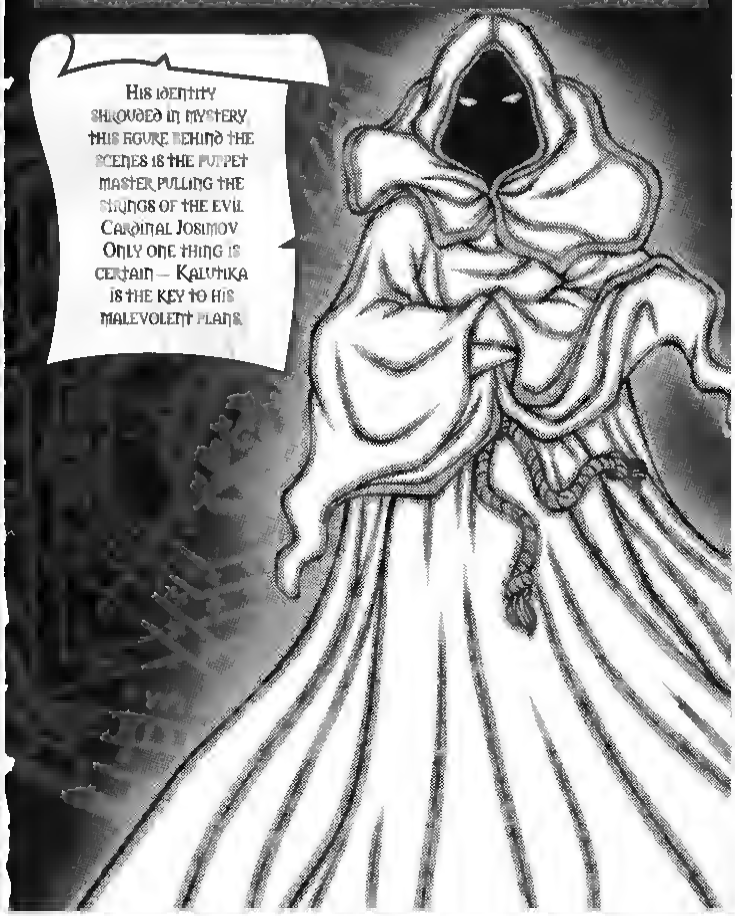
LILITH—THE MAIDEN

THE BEAUTIFUL LILITH SERVINO WAS THE ONLY HUMAN TO EVER EXTEND AN UNSOLICITED HAND OF KINDNESS TO THE VAMPIRE. YEARS LATER, AFTER BEING RESCUED BY DESHWITAT HER KINDNESS BEGINS TO EVOLVE INTO FEELINGS OF LOVE.

DANUBE—THE SISTER

STEADFASTLY DEVOTED TO HER BROTHER, DANUBE MAYBUS IS THE ONLY OTHER PERSON WHO TRULY UNDERSTANDS THE EXTENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE THAT KALUHIKA HAS SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF THEIR TYRANNICAL FATHER.

THE MAN IN THE ROBE—?


HIS IDENTITY SHROUDED IN MYSTERY, THIS FIGURE BEHIND THE SCENES IS THE PUPPET MASTER PULLING THE STRINGS OF THE EVIL CARDINAL JOSIMOV. ONLY ONE THING IS CERTAIN — KALUHIKA IS THE KEY TO HIS MALEVOLENT PLANS.

REBIRTH

Vol 10

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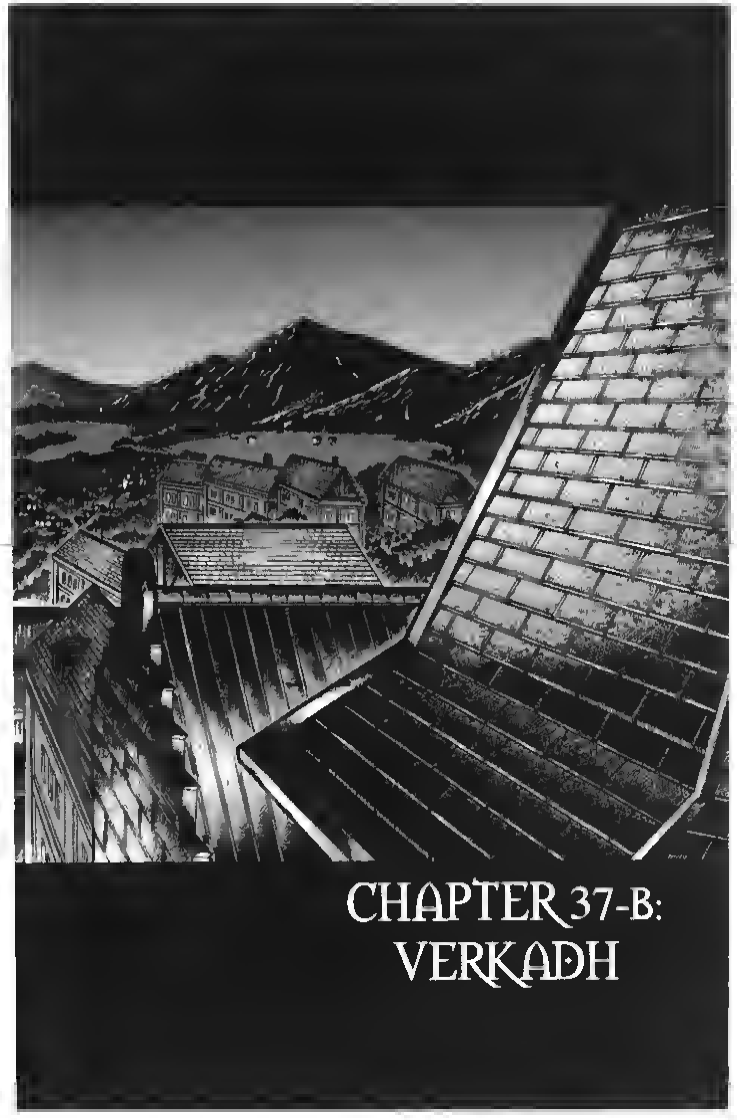


CHAPTER 37-B: VERKADH

SO, TO SUMMARIZE THE EVENTS OF THE MISSION...
16 WOMEN, BEING HELD AS "SACRIFICES," WERE RESCUED.
OUR CASUALTIES IN THE RAID WERE 6 DEAD, 21 INJURED.
I RECEIVED INFORMATION ABOUT AN UNLAWFUL GATHERING OF THE "VERKADH" CULT, WHICH HAS BEEN RAPIDLY EXPANDING ITS INFLUENCE IN THE AREA.
WE MOUNTED A SURPRISE ATTACK, ARRESTING A TOTAL OF 267 CULT MEMBERS.
END OF REPORT.

INDEED...
HMM... WELL DONE, SIR KALUTIKA.
YOU MUST BE... TIRED. WHY NOT ENJOY A WELL DESERVED REST?
SO, DESH...
ARE YOU REALLY ALL RIGHT?
YES?
WHAT?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WHAT?"
WE'RE IN A BLEEDIN' CHURCH..? YOU'RE A VAMPIRE..?
AH... SO THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ON ABOUT
OBVIOUSLY I'M FINE.

YOUR SUPERSTITIONS CONCERNING MY KIND ARE SO CHILDLIKE THEY ACTUALLY AMUSE ME. THE ONLY ONE THAT'S TRUE IS THE EFFECT OF SUNLIGHT
THAT, AND GARLIC. I TRULY DETEST GARLIC...
REALLY ...?
WELL I'LL BE...
WELL... THERE IS ONE OTHER THING...
IS THERE?
SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK YOU BEFORE...BUT THERE JUST WASN'T ANY OPPORTUNITY TO BRING IT UP...
WHAT IS IT?
SOMETHING YOU SAID BEFORE...
THAT KAL ISN'T HUMAN... WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
.....
TH... THAT...
I'M SORRY... I'M NOT SURE MYSELF...
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW?!

IT'S JUST THAT... THE TASTE OF HIS BLOOD...
IT WOULD BE HARD FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND, BUT IT DIDN'T TASTE...HUMAN.
TASTE OF HIS BLOOD..? MAYBE YOU'RE JUST USED TO VAGABONDS AND VILLAGE FOLK. HE IS A NOBLEMAN, AFTER ALL..
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF THE TERM "BLUE BLOOD"?
FOOL! HIS SOCIAL STANDING MAKES NO DIFFERENCE!
HIS BLOOD WAS UNLIKE ANY I'VE EVER TASTED IN MY LIFE! AND HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN..
...THE INCREDIBLE POWER I RECEIVED WHEN I DRANK IT?
WELL, I...
SORRY, MATE...
HMPH. NOW ENOUGH OF THIS TALK.
WHO CARES IF HE IS HUMAN OR NOT?
HEH... GOOD POINT.
FOR ONE THING, IT MIGHT BE NICE FOR ME TO HAVE SOME COMPANY.
HELLO.
OH-KAL! DONE WITH THE REPORT?
FINISHED WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
LASSES OF COURSE!
OF COURSE HA HA!

WELL THEN, WHAT SAY YOU BOYS TO A BIT O'ALE, EH?
FORGET IT, RETT
DESHWITAT IS PINING AWAY FOR MISS LILITH
AH... I HAVE, UH...OTHER PLANS...
ARGH! THAT'S NOT TRUE!
AH... MISS LILITH! SHE'S A RANDY ONE, IS SHE?
URG
HOLD YOUR TONGUE, YOU OAF!
SOUNDS LIKE A "YES" TO ME, RETT!
SHUT YOUR GOBS!!
HA HA HA HA!

THIS IS ABSURD
IF THIS CONTINUES, WE'LL BE BITTEN BY OUR OWN TRAINED DOGS!
FOUR SANCTUARIES IN THE EAST, SEVEN IN THE WEST... OUR ENDEAVORS SUFFER BECAUSE OF THEM.
HALF OF THE VERKADH CULT IS DESTROYED. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS?
WORM! THE TIME IS NEAR THE KEY IS ALMOST COMPLETE
IF HE TAKES TO THE KEY AND DISAPPEARS THE REST OF THE WORLD IS ALL OURS
FOR FOUR YEARS I'VE HEARD YOU SAY THAT! WHEN IS THAT DAY GOING TO COME?!
IF WE ARE DISCOVERED, WE SHALL BE EXECUTED!
IF THEY FIND OUT THAT THE LEADER OF VERKADH CULT IS ACTUALLY JOSIMO--
URG!
STOP BLATHERING! EVERYTHING GOES AS PLANNED!!
YOU NEED ONLY MAKE CERTAIN WE HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF SACRIFICES!

BUT YOU MUST MOVE QUICKLY, AS KALUTIKA'S RAIDS ARE INCREASING!
HMPH!
YES...YES, I UNDERSTAND...
AH... THAT'S I HAVE A SPY INSIDE THE SACRED KNIGHTS' UNIT
THERE IS A SUSPICIOUS MAN...DESHWITAT, AN OFFICER WHO ONLY COMES OUT AT NIGHT
...AND?
BUT.. HE IS NOT LISTED ANYWHERE IN OUR ROSTER
AND ONE OTHER THING...
WHAT OF THE "HINDRANCE" THAT I TOLD YOU TO ELIMINATE?
WE'VE NO RECORD OF HIM...

ONLY COMES OUT AT NIGHT... IT CORRESPONDS WITH THE CREATURE OF DARKNESS IN THE DIVINE SIGN
I HAVE AN INTUITION FIND THIS DESHWITAT...AND DESTROY HIM
AS WELL AS THE SENIOR CULT MEMBERS CAPTURED BY KALUTIKA
THERE MUST BE NO WITNESSES TO OUR PLAN
NOW, BE GONE.
BY YOUR LEAVE!
IT SHALL BE DONE...
FOOL...
THE TIME IS NIGH...
EVERYTHING IS AS PLANNED...
BUT. I WONDER

COULD THAT BE TRUE...
...OH, EXALTED ONE?

BELIEVE...
...DARK PRIEST...
THE TIME IS NIGH. EVERYTHING IS AS PLANNED...

CHAPTER 38:
RINGS OF ALL SPIRITS

HA--! THAT DESH, RUNNIN' OFF LIKE A LOVE-SICK SCHOOL-BOY!
BE A BIT MORE UNDER STANDING, RETT.
THEY HAVEN'T SEEN ONE ANOTHER FOR TWO WEEKS CAN YOU REALLY BLAME HIM?

DUNNO. I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE TO GET TIED TO ONE LASS.
WELL, FINDING A GOOD WOMAN AND SETTLING DOWN WOULDN'T HURT YOU, RETT.
HOW ABOUT YOU, MAN?
HOW COME AN ARISTOCRATIC FANCY LAD LIKE YOU IS STILL SOLO?
I...UH...
I'M...NOT READY...
THAT SO...?
ALL RIGHT...

HMM... DO YOU THINK THE TWO OF THEM STAND A CHANCE?
I MEAN, THEY'RE FROM TWO DIFFERENT SPECIES
I THINK THEY'LL BE FINE, RETT.
I'D LIKE TO THINK SO, BUT...
...THEY'LL HAVE SOME OBSTACLES
THEY'LL BE FINE!
I KNOW IT!
I TRULY BELIEVE THAT TRUE LOVE CAN OVERCOME ANYTHING!
AND I BELIEVE THAT IT WILL FOR THEM AS WELL!

EASY, KAL...
UH...
MY APOLOGIES... I'VE BECOME OVERLY EXCITED...
AH, HERE'S YOUR HOUSE. I'LL BE OFF NOW, KAL.
YES...OF COURSE.
IT'S LATE. WHY DON'T YOU SLEEP HERE?
NO THANKS, KAL.
I'VE GOT A MIGHTY THIRST TO QUENCH... FOR THE ALE AND FOR THE WENCH!

FINE. BUT DON'T END UP IN THE STOCKADE LIKE LAST TIME!
YES, MOTHER!
KAL...
SOMETIMES...
...EVEN TRUE LOVE DOESN'T OVERCOME
FOR EXAMPLE...

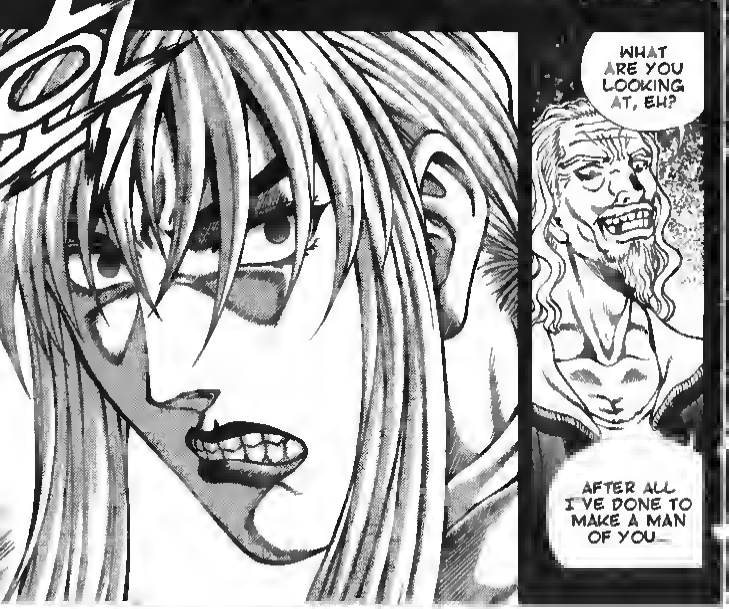
AW, BLOODY HELL...
FORGET IT... IT'S NOTHING... G'NIGHT, LAD.
RETT...

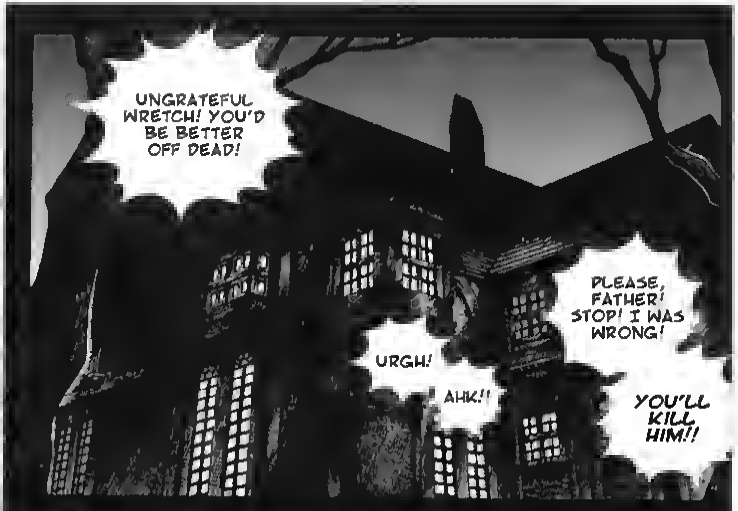
I WAS SPEAKING OUT OF TURN... SORRY.
I'M OFF TO GET DRUNK.
SLEEP WELL.

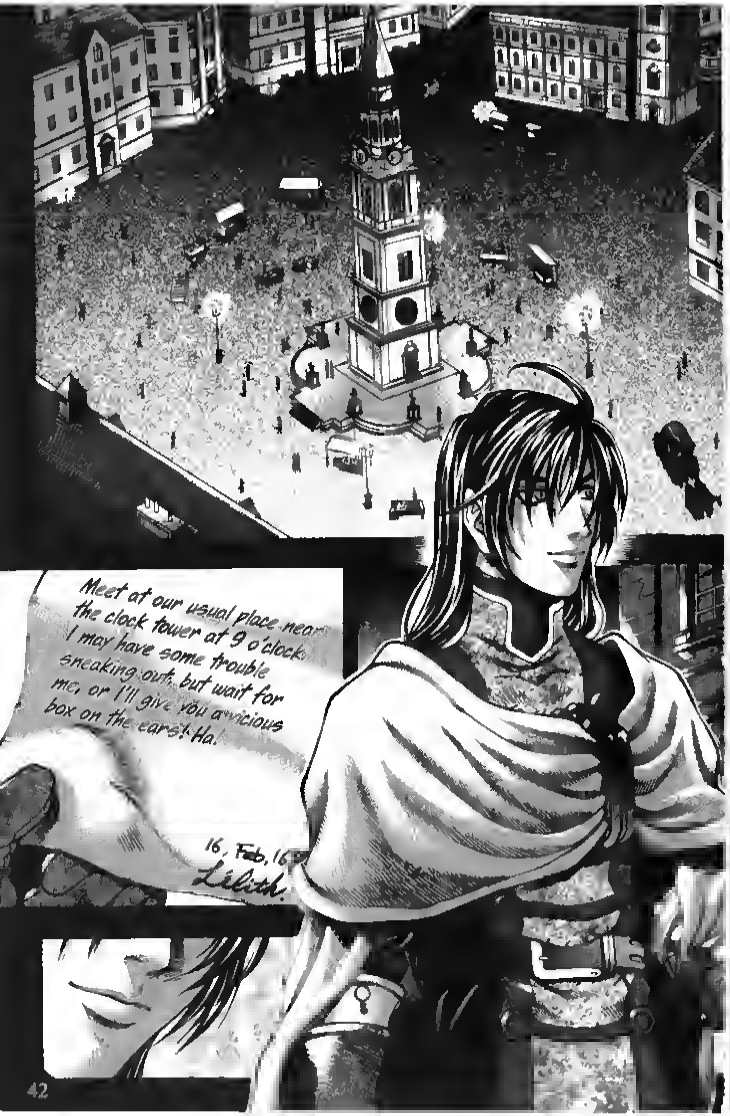
AAAAAHH!!
THAT'S MY SISTER!

DANUBE!!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
K...KAL...!
FATHER!!
DON'T TRY TO HIDE, YOU BITCH!
YOU THINK I CAN'T GET TO YOU?!
YOU DAMN BITCH!!
AAIIEE!!
STOP IT, FATHER! YOU ARE NOT WELL!
TWO DAYS AGO, HE SUDDENLY ROSE FROM HIS BED
HE BEGAN TO RANT ABOUT SOME MAN THAT I MUST MARRY...WHEN I REFUSED--
NO, KAL... HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING..
HE'S BEEN IN HIS RIGHT MIND SINCE THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY--
RIGHT MIND?!
OH, NOW YOU CALL YOUR FATHER SENILE!!
YOU WHORE! SCOFF AT THE MAN I'VE CHOSEN FOR YOU, WILL YOU?!
FATHER, CALM YOURSELF!!
AAAH!

DISLOYAL WHELP, YOU'RE NO BETTER!
YOU'VE ALWAYS SIDED WITH THIS LITTLE TRAMP, YOU BASTARD!
PLEASE... FATHER...
KAL! ARE YOU HURT?!


WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT, EH?
AFTER ALL I'VE DONE TO MAKE A MAN OF YOU...


UNGRATEFUL WRETCH! YOU'D BE BETTER OFF DEAD!
PLEASE, FATHER! STOP! I WAS WRONG!
URGH!
AHK!!
YOU'LL KILL HIM!!


Meet at our usual place near the clock tower at 9 o'clock. I may have some trouble sneaking out, but wait for me, or I'll give you a vicious box on the ears! Ha.
16, Feb, 16
Lilith

SOB
SOB
...PLEASE STOP CRYING, SISTER...
SOB
SOB
THESE RAGES OF HIS...THEY ONLY LAST FOR A DAY OR TWO, AT THE MOST.
YOU JUST HAVE TO BE PATIENT WITH HIM.
P-PATIENT?! WHY IS HE MORE VIOLENT WHEN HE'S CLEAR-HEADED?
IT'S NOT RIGHT...KAL! I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY LONGER!
YES...I KNOW...
BUT HE SEEMS TO BE SLEEPING NOW. IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, SEND FOR ME.
SNIFF... OKAY...
THANKS, KAL...
SLEEP WELL, DANUBE.
덜컥

탁
탁
샨
샨
...EH?
EVERY SINGLE TIME...

덜컹
덜컹

HMM... A SET OF RINGS...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I'VE YET TO GIVE LILITH A GIFT.
IS IT TOO SOON? I'LL JUST TAKE A LOOK...
THE R-RINGS...
I'M...UH, LOOKING FOR A GIFT FOR A...GIRL...
A GIRL! OF COURSE! I HAVE SOMETHING SHE'S SURE TO LOVE!
ACTUALLY I HAVE A VERY PRECIOUS, MAGICAL RING...

SIGH...
WHA--?!
?!

THESE RAREST OF OBJECTS CREATE A MYSTICAL LINK BETWEEN THE HEARTS OF THOSE IN LOVE

THEY ARE THE RINGS OF ALL SPIRITS.
EACH RING ALLOWS YOU TO KNOW THE WELL-BEING OF THE ONE WHO WEARS THE OTHER, NO MATTER THE DISTANCE.
THE GEM... WHEN IT GLOWS RED YOUR BELOVED IS AMONG US.
BUT SHOULD IT TURN BLUE... THEN THEY ARE AMONG THE DEAD.
RINGS OF ALL SPIRITS?
FOLKLORE ASIDE. THEY ARE VERY ATTRACTIVE DESIGNS...
HOW MUCH?
NO MONEY WILL BE NECESSARY
YOU WERE DESTINED TO POSSESS THE RINGS.
UNTIL THEY ARE CLAIMED THEY REMAIN BLACK, AS YOU CAN SEE.
50

WH-WHAT HAPPENED...?!
THE ROOM...?!
HELLO! IS SOMEONE OUT THERE?!
쾅 쾅
DANUBE! CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
철컥
철컥
드르르...
THE... DOOR?!

WHAT? STOP TALKING NONSENSE AND JUST TELL ME THE PRICE...
HMM...?
10 O'CLOCK, ALREADY? IT'S GETTING LATE...
SORRY... WHERE WAS I?
I'VE NO TIME TO HAGGLE, SO JUST TELL ME THE...
두두두두

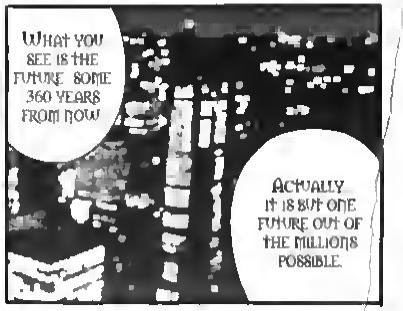
...?!
HELLO... DESHWITAT? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHA...OH? LILITH!
UH, YOU SEE, THERE WAS A...
HURRY! WE CAN TALK LATER! I'M AFRAID OLGA MAY HAVE FOLLOWED ME
QUICKLY, DESH!
B-BUT...!
탁 탁 탁

WHAT...IS THIS?!
WHERE IS THIS?!
BELOW ME...IS THAT A VILLAGE? NO! THIS IS ALL WRONG!

MY APOLOGIES KALUHKA MAYBUS. HAVE I KEPT YOU WAITING?

I WAS INVOLVED IN ANOTHER NEGOTIATION

PLEASE, DON'T BE ANXIOUS. I WILL TELL YOU ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW
THIS IS A DIMENSIONAL PASSAGEWAY A SPIRIT ROAD, IF YOU WILL.


WHAT YOU SEE IS THE FUTURE. SOME 360 YEARS FROM NOW
ACTUALLY IT IS BUT ONE FUTURE OUT OF THE MILLIONS POSSIBLE.

DIMENSION... PASSAGEWAY? S-SPIRIT ROAD?
THIS...IS THE WORLD IN THE FUTURE?!

YOU MAY ASK, WHO AM I?
THERE'S NO EASY ANSWER, I'M AFRAID

I AM HE WHO EXISTS WITHIN THE VOID
HMM... STILL TOO VAGUE?

HE WHO EXISTS IN THE...?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
I'M MAKING IT OVERLY COMPLICATED

EVERY BEING IN THE UNIVERSE HAS A PREORDAINED TIME AND PLACE...
BUT WHAT AWAITS ME IS A SPACE THAT IS NOT YET READY

DO YOU MEAN THAT YOUR DESTINY HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED?
THE MEANING IS SIMILAR, BUT
...I MYSELF AM ONE OF MANY POSSIBILITIES

BUT WHY DO YOU SHOW THESE THINGS TO ME?!

ALL IN GOOD TIME.
PERHAPS SOME FAMILIAR FACES WILL HELP

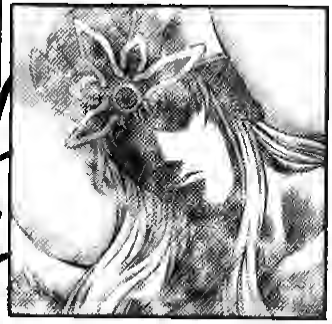
OH
OH
OH
파팡
AHH...
...THAT'S?!

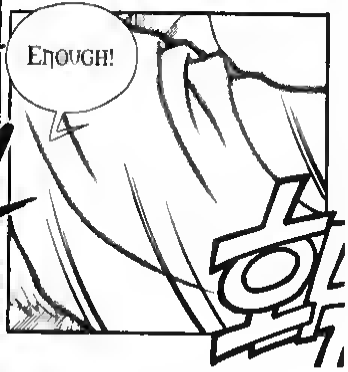
THEY LOOK DIFFERENT, BUT— THAT'S DESHWITAT AND RETT!

ARE THEY...
...FIGHTING?!

BUT... WHO?!
헉

AH OH OH OH




ENOUGH!
헉

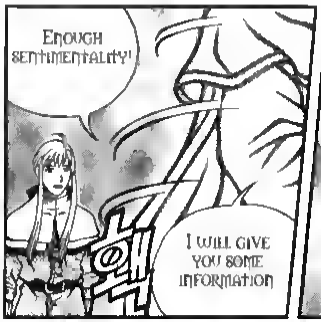
I REALIZE THAT WAS A BIT ABRUPT...
BUT WE DON'T WANT TO SPOIL THE SURPRISE.
I'VE ASKED THIS BEFORE BUT...
...WHY DO YOU SHOW ME THESE THINGS?
KALUNKA MAYBUS...
YOU MUST BE MADE AWARE OF YOUR POSSIBILITIES.

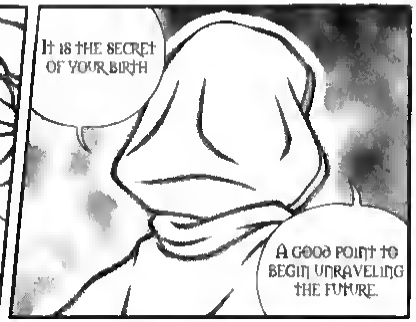
YOUR POSSIBILITIES ARE...NEARLY LIMITLESS.
MORE SO THAN ANY LIVING SOUL

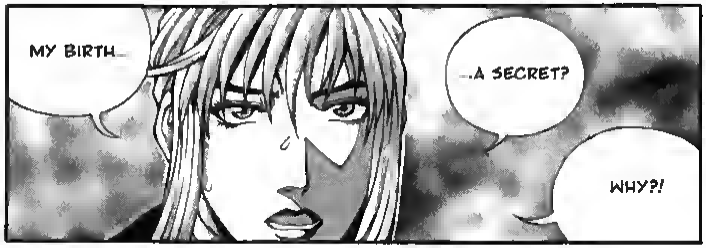
WITH THESE POSSIBILITIES YOU WILL SHAPE
MY VERY EXISTENCE.
YOU ARE MISTAKEN, SIR.
I AM MEDIOCRE IN EVERY WAY.
BUT ONLY IN THE PRESENT!
AND THAT, IN PART, IS WHY I'VE COME TO YOU.
I WANTED TO SEE YOU AS YOU ARE RIGHT NOW

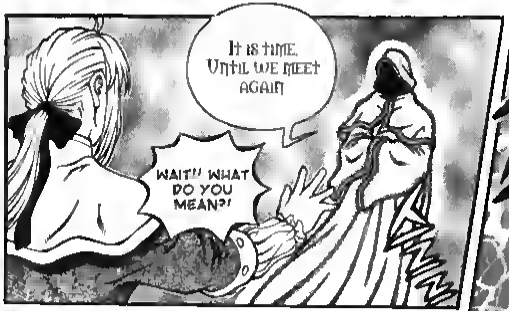
KALUTIKA THE INNOCENT. I HAD TO SEE YOU ONE LAST TIME.

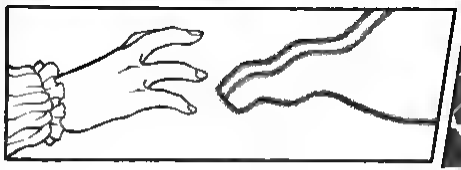
ONE LAST...?

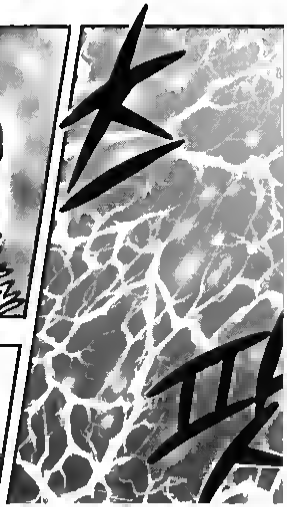

ENOUGH SENTIMENTALITY!
I WILL GIVE YOU SOME INFORMATION

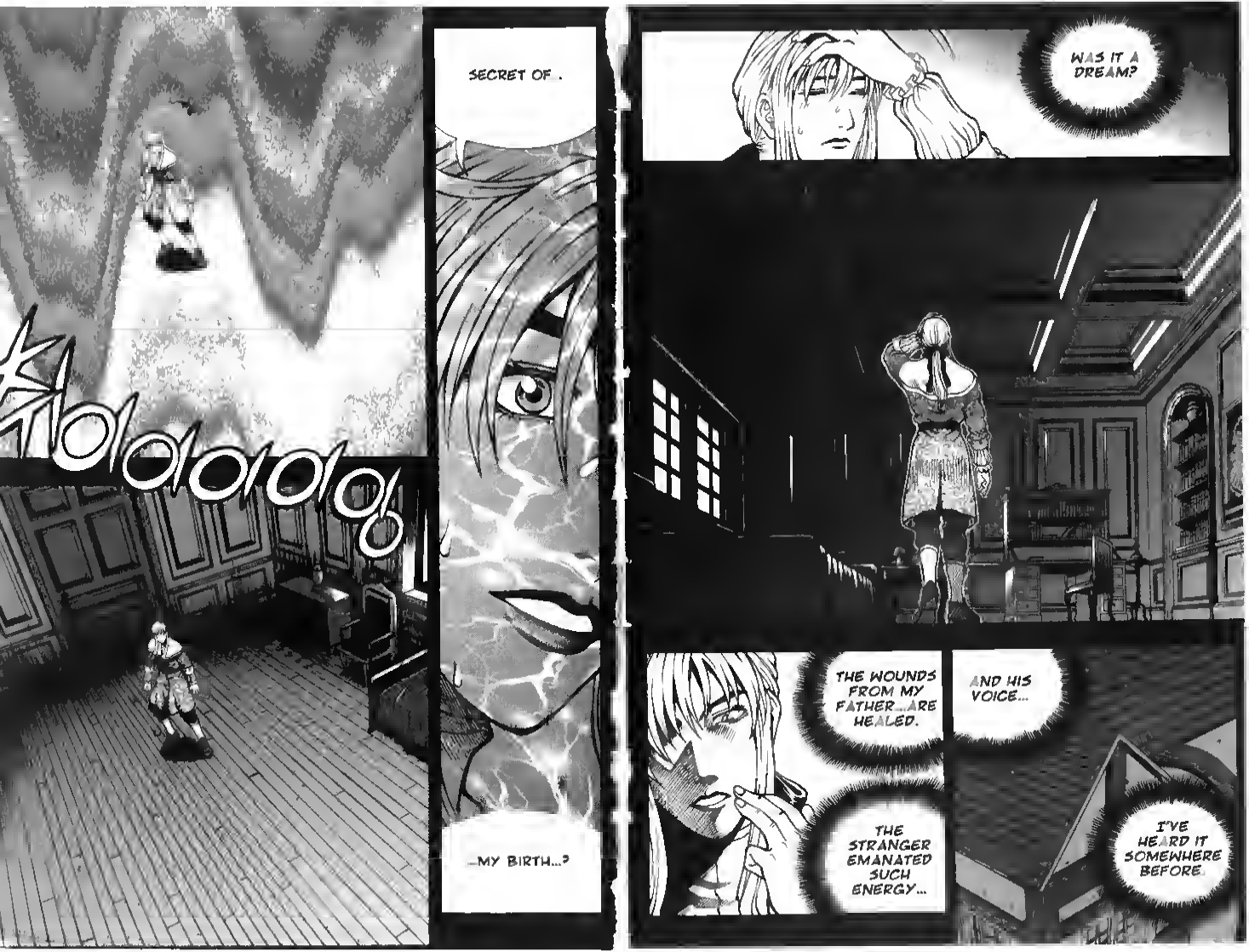

IT IS THE SECRET OF YOUR BIRTH
A GOOD POINT TO BEGIN UNRAVELING THE FUTURE.


MY BIRTH...
...A SECRET?
WHY?!


IT IS TIME. UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN
WAIT!! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!






SECRET OF .
...MY BIRTH...?
WAS IT A DREAM?
THE WOUNDS FROM MY FATHER...ARE HEALED.
THE STRANGER EMANATED SUCH ENERGY...
AND HIS VOICE...
I'VE HEARD IT SOMEWHERE BEFORE.

UM...LET'S SEE... "THE QUEEN SCREAMED...LOUD... AT THE MIR-MIR-ROR..."
"...WHO...IS THE PRETTIEST IN THE WORLD? AND THE MIRROR ANSWER BACK..."
THAT'S NOT QUITE RIGHT, DESH "THE MIRROR ANSWERED," NOT "THE MIRROR ANSWER"
AH... THAT'S RIGHT...
OK, THEN CONTINUE READING FROM HERE
ACTUALLY... LILITH...
AH... ALL RIGHT...
CAN WE STOP FOR A BIT?

NO, WE CAN'T! YOU'VE BEEN GONE TWO WEEKS AND HAVEN'T BEEN STUDYING!
UHMB, OTAY...
BUT STILL, WITH YOUR TUTORING, I CAN READ AND WRITE FAIRLY WELL, NOW
HMPH!
YOU'VE A LONG WAY TO GO, MR RUDBICH THAT LAST LETTER WAS BARELY LITERATE!
YOU KNOW WHAT?! LET'S GO SEE A PUPPET SHOW!
빌드닉!
YOU'LL LOVE IT!
SUCH A CHILD!
VERY WELL... A SHORT BREAK, AND THEN BACK TO STUDIES!

OH, MY... LOOK AT ALL THE STARS! BREATHTAKING!
DESH...
HM?
HOW MUCH DID YOU MISS ME WHILE YOU WERE AWAY?
WHA--?!
KOF-
KOF-

BECAUSE... I MISSED YOU MORE AND MORE EACH DAY.
BUT MORE THAN MISSING YOU... I WAS DREADFULLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY SO MUCH, LILITH
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN A HORDE OF MINDLESS ACOLYTES TO--
I KNOW HOW STRONG YOU ARE DESH BUT I WORRY NONETHE-LESS
I KNEW IT!
LILITH... I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU
REALLY?
VOILA!
OH! A PAIR OF RINGS! BEAUTIFUL!

IT SOUNDS A BIT FISHY TO ME, BUT THE MERCHANT WHO SOLD THEM TO ME SAID THEY HAD MAGIC PROPERTIES
IF THE AHEM LOVERS.. WHO WEAR THEM ARE WELL, THEY GLOW RED. IF ONE OF THEM DIES.. THEY TURN BLUE.
HOW SWEET! ♡
THE STREET VENDOR CALLED THEM "THE RINGS O ALL SPIRITS"
스윽
스윽
DESH... IT'S RED.
WELL I'LL BE DAMNED...
I PROMISE YOU, LILITH.
YOUR RING WILL NEVER TURN BLUE.

THANK YOU...
...DESH
WITH ALL MY HEART...
I'LL GUARD THIS WITH ALL MY HEART
사락

포옥
슥
콩닥
콩닥
콩닥
두근
두근

LET ME JUST ENJOY THIS MOMENT, EVEN THOUGH IT MAY BE AS FLEETING AS THE WIND.
THIS LOVE I FEEL...
THIS ADRENALINE RIGHT NOW
FOR NOW IT IS ENOUGH

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT! FROM THE CAST OF
REBIRTH
CHAPTER 39:
DEVIL'S SIN

Sacred Knights' Command Post: Lenore Castle

FATHER DANIEL, CAPTAIN KALUTIKA WANTS TO SEE YOU, URGENTLY
HM? OH, YES. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE

TASH-
TASH-
TASH-
I'LL GIVE YOU SOME INFORMATION
THE SECRET OF YOUR BIRTH.
A GOOD POINT TO BEGIN UNRAVELING THE FUTURE.

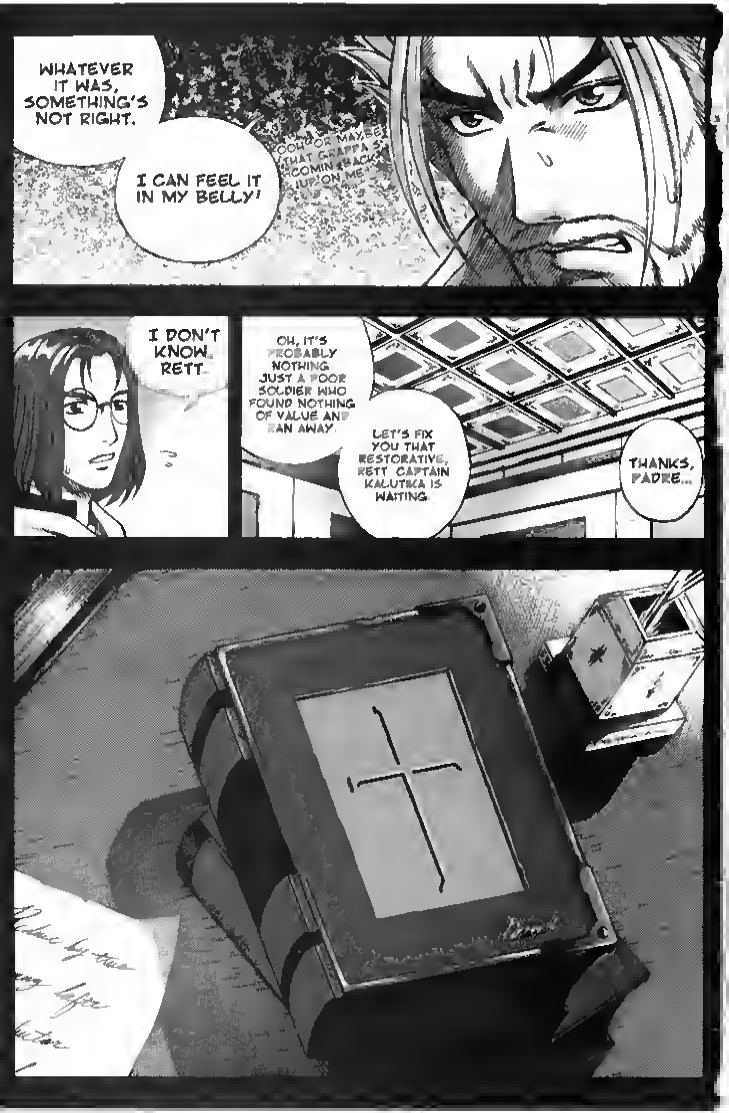
SECRET OF MY BIRTH...?
WHAT COULD BE SECRET?
AM I NOT THE SON OF LORD MAYBUS?
AND IF THERE IS SOME DARK SECRET
..THE PERSON WHO WOULD KNOW WOULD BE .
CAPTAIN KALUTIKA, YOU CALLED FOR ME?
WHA--?
CALLED YOU ? NO, I DON'T BELIEVE I DID
NO? BUT I'M SURE THAT HE SAID YOU-
I'M AFRAID THERE'S BEEN A MISUNDER-STANDING.
HMM... A PRACTICAL JOKE, PERHAPS?
JUST AS WELL I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU, FATHER

A JOURNEY?
YES ONLY FOR A WEEK I'LL BE BRINGING RETT
I'LL NEED YOU TO OVERSEE OPERATIONS HERE WHILE WE'RE AWAY
WELL, YES, OF COURSE... BUT WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE JOURNEY?
PURPOSE ?
THERE IS...
...A MYSTERY IN NEED OF SOLVING.

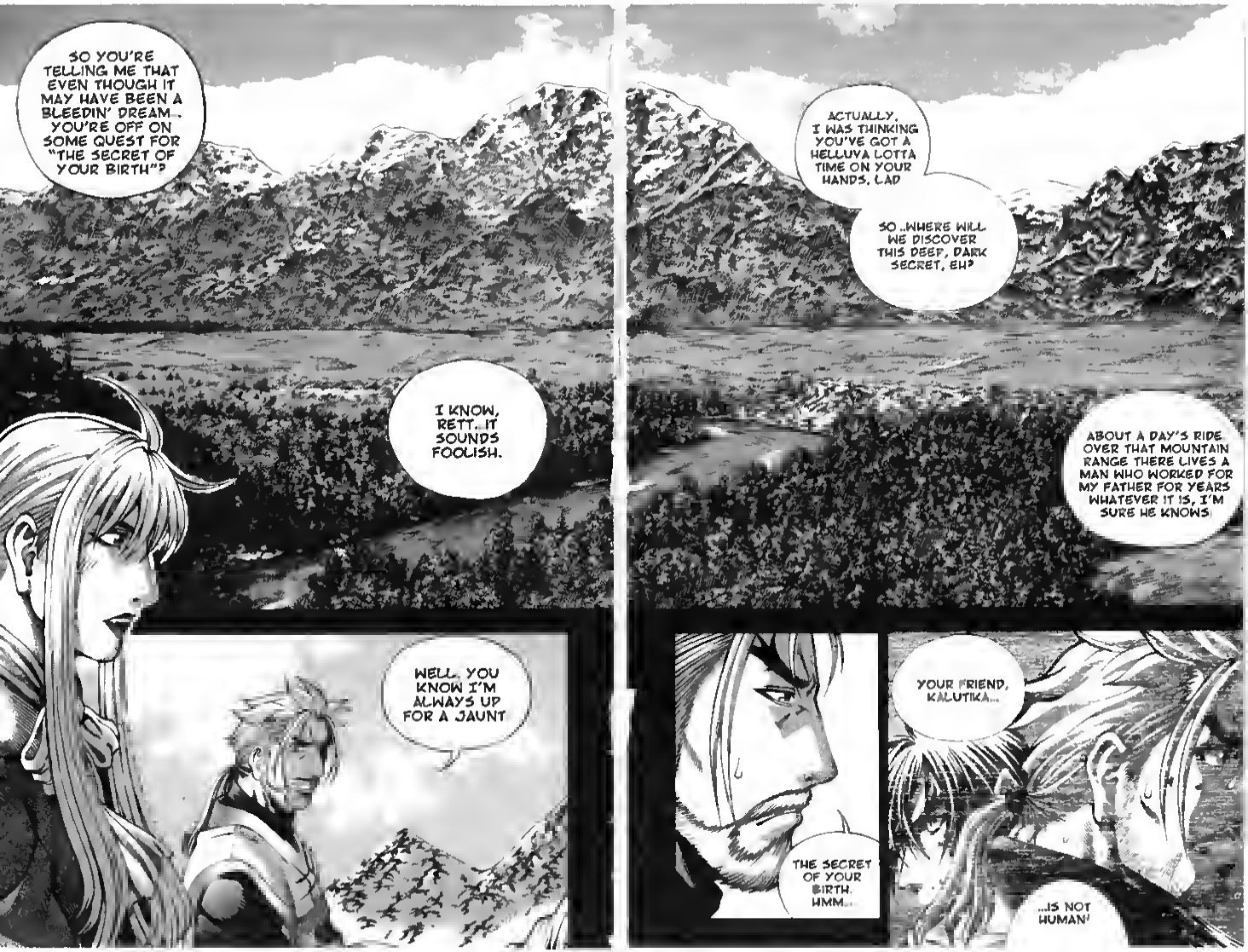
OH, BLOODY HELL...
비틀
비틀
OOOH NEVER MIX ALE WITH GRAPPA AGAIN YOU SOD!
BETTER GO ASK FATHER DANIEL TO MIX ME UP A RESTORATIVE...
비틀
비틀
PADRE, YOU THERE...?
I'M FEELIN' A WEE BIT--
OOF!

탁
탁
WHAT THE BLAZES?!
HEY!!
YOU THERE! STOOOOOOO...
UM...RETT? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
COURSE I'M ALL RIGHT! DON'T I BLOODY WELL LOOK ALL RIGHT? OOOH
OW--MY HEAD!

...HMM
YOU SAY THERE WAS A THIEF? BUT THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYTHING MISSING...
KILL ME, PLEASE...
PADRE...
...MAYBE IT WASN'T ACTUALLY AN OBJECT HE WAS LOOKING FOR
MAYBE...THAT PRECIOUS JOURNAL YOU'RE ALWAYS CLUTCHING SO TIGHT?
BUT WHY WOULD...
WHAT COULD THEY DO WITH THAT INFORMATION?
WELL...I MEAN THERE IS SOME SENSITIVE MATERIAL THERE
DESH'S STORY, FOR INSTANCE
HMM... TRUE, BUT STILL...


WHATEVER IT WAS, SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT.
I CAN FEEL IT IN MY BELLY!
OOH, OR MAYBE THAT CRAPPA 3 COMIN' BACK UP ON ME.
I DON'T KNOW, RETT.
OH, IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING. JUST A POOR SOLDIER WHO FOUND NOTHING OF VALUE AND RAN AWAY.
LET'S FIX YOU THAT RESTORATIVE, RETT. CAPTAIN KALUTSKA IS WAITING.
THANKS, PADRE...

휘이이이
졸졸 졸졸
따각


SO YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT EVEN THOUGH IT MAY HAVE BEEN A BLEEDIN' DREAM... YOU'RE OFF ON SOME QUEST FOR "THE SECRET OF YOUR BIRTH"?
I KNOW, RETT...IT SOUNDS FOOLISH.
WELL, YOU KNOW I'M ALWAYS UP FOR A JAUNT
ACTUALLY, I WAS THINKING YOU'VE GOT A HELLUVA LOTTA TIME ON YOUR HANDS, LAD
SO ..WHERE WILL WE DISCOVER THIS DEEP, DARK SECRET, EH?
ABOUT A DAY'S RIDE OVER THAT MOUNTAIN RANGE THERE LIVES A MAN WHO WORKED FOR MY FATHER FOR YEARS WHATEVER IT IS, I'M SURE HE KNOWS
THE SECRET OF YOUR BIRTH. HMM...
YOUR FRIEND, KALUTIKA...
...IS NOT HUMAN!

WHAT'S THAT, RETT?
HUH? OH, NOTHING.
IF WE WANT TO CROSS THAT MOUNTAIN BY NIGHTFALL...
..WE'D BETTER GET MOVING.
RIGHT.
10000

A...VAMPIRE?!
I CAN SCARCELY BELIEVE IT MYSELF... BUT MY SPY SWEARS IT IS TRUE.
HE MANAGED TO GET A LOOK AT FATHER DANIEL'S JOURNAL. THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER FOR YEARS NOW!
HIS NAME IS DESHWITAT L. RUDBICH.
HE CONSORTS WITH LILITH SERVINO, DAUGHTER OF ONE OF THE CHURCH'S WEALTHIEST BENEFACTORS.
A SOLDIER WHO ONLY COMES OUT AT NIGHT...
A VAMPIRE... IT ALL CORRESPONDS WITH THE DIVINE SIGN
IT'S HIM. THE INTERVENER IN THE DARKNESS.
WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS, MY LORD?

YOU MUST...
BE SWIFT, BUT DISCREET--
YOU WILL DO NOTHING!
KKOFOO
WHA--? AHH!
OH, EXALTED ONE!
RISE, FOOLS.
DO NOTHING WITHOUT MY COMMAND!
THE KING OF DARKNESS... VERKAOH'S REBIRTH IS AT HAND
넘즈

YOU SHOULD REJOICE!
THE "DAY OF PROMISE" IS BEFORE YOU!
...?!
THEN...THAT MEANS...!!
HEH HEH HEH...
CORRECT...
THE "DAY OF PROMISE" WILL BE IN TWO WEEKS DURING THE NIGHT OF THE LUNAR ECLIPSE.
UNTIL THEN YOU MUST FOLLOW MY COMMANDS TO THE LETTER.

FIRST, ARRANGE FOR THE REQUIRED SACRIFICES.
THEN ELIMINATE CERTAIN POTENTIAL... OBSTACLES.

멍~
반쪽
TEE HEE!
OH MY!
꽈닥 꽈닥

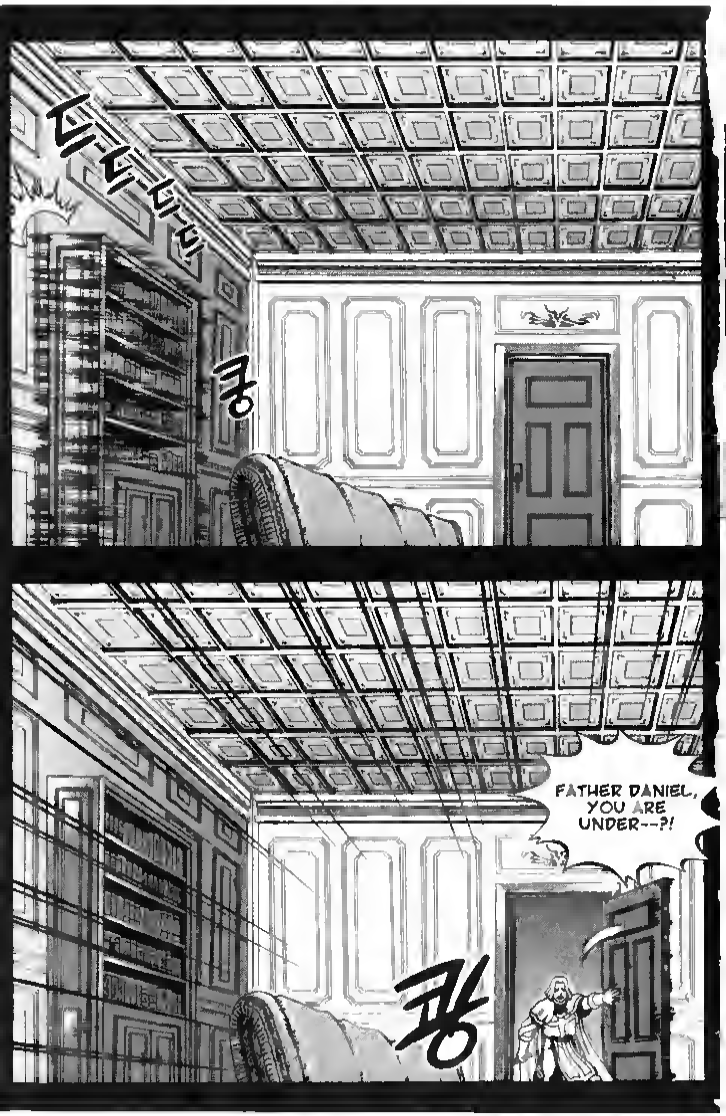
우당탕
MOVE! THIS IS OFFICIAL BUSINESS
HEY! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
NO! THAT'S MISS
ROOM!
HMM..?
YOU'RE HER, ALL RIGHT
YOU ARE UNDER ARREST FOR CONSORTING WITH THE DEVIL, AND FOR THE PRACTICE OF WITCHCRAFT!
NO!
IT'S NOT TRUE!
LILITH SERVINO?
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
BUT WHY...?

휘이이잉
LA DE-DA ♪
팡
팡
펄럭
WHEW !
...HUH?!
LA LALA...

휘이이잉
YOU ARE DANUBE MAYBUS?

두벅
두벅
두벅
두벅
두벅 두벅 두벅

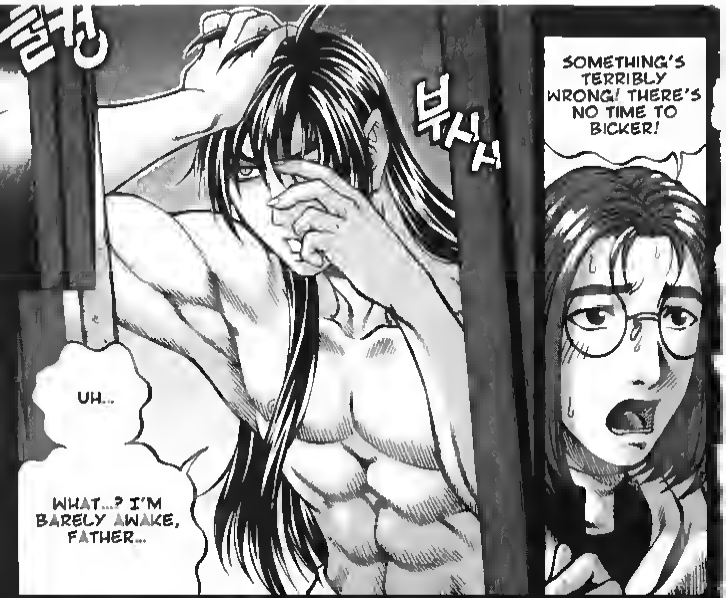
두적
두적
NOW WHERE IS THAT PERSONNEL TRANSFER FILE?
URG—DID I LEAVE IT IN THE SECRET LIBRARY?
IT'S SO DANK AND. EERIE DOWN THERE.
WHY IS THERE SUCH A NEED FOR SECRECY WITH THESE SACRED KNIGHTS?
SO MUCH SUBTERFUGE...
OOF!
OH, MY BACK!


DUDUDUDU
쿵
FATHER DANIEL, YOU ARE UNDER--?!
쾅

DAMN IT! HE'S GONE!
BLAST! HE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SUSPECT OF THE GROUP!
I SHOULD HAVE COME HERE BEFORE CAPTURING THE WOMEN
WE'LL TEAR THE PLACE APART, SIR!
TOO LATE! THE SUN IS SETTING!
DID YOU FORGET WHAT JOSIMOV SAID ABOUT RETURNING BY SUNSET?!
WE'RE DEALING WITH A VAMPIRE HERE, YOU DOLT!

WE'RE GOING BACK TO OUR POST.
뚜벅
뚜벅
YES SIR, CAPTAIN!
쾅
드드드드
...!!

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
탁 탁 탁 탁
MR. DESHWITAT!!
쾅
THERE'S AN EMERGENCY!!
뒤
뒤


SOMETHING'S TERRIBLY WRONG! THERE'S NO TIME TO BICKER!
UH...
WHAT...? I'M BARELY AWAKE, FATHER...

THAT CAN'T BE!!
I'M AFRAID IT'S TRUE! LADY LILITH AND THE CAPTAIN'S SISTER HAVE BEEN ARRESTED
KALUTIKA, RETT AND MYSELF ARE ALL WANTED MEN, BY ORDER OF CARDINAL JOSIMOV.
BECAUSE WE'VE ASSOCIATED WITH A VAMPIRE, THE CHARGES WILL MOST LIKELY BE WITCHCRAFT.
THESE CHARGES ARE USUALLY FOLLOWED BY A BOGUS TRIAL, TORTURE AND... BURNING AT THE STAKE.
TORTURE...? BURNING...?
AND ALL... BECAUSE OF ME?!
NO! THIS IS MY FAULT...
IF ONLY I HADN'T RECORDED YOUR SECRET IN MY JOURNAL!

WHY...WHY... WHY...?
STOP CRYING. THIS ISN'T YOUR FAULT.
DANIEL...
YOU WERE ONLY DOING WHAT YOU HAD TO DO.
JUST AS I WILL DO WHAT I HAVE TO DO.
FATHER, GET WORD TO KAL AND RETT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO"...?
ARE YOU THINKING OF ATTEMPTING A RESCUE?
WELL...
...IF CONSORTING WITH ME IS WITCHCRAFT...
...THEN I MUST BE THE DEVIL, RIGHT?

THEN I'LL SHOW THEM THAT...
...THE DEVIL HAS NO MERCY!
NO, YOU CAN'T! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!! THEY KNOW YOU ARE A VAMPIRE!!
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT KIND OF HORRIBLE TRAP THEY'VE SET FOR YOU!
IT DOESN'T MATTER.

THESE ARE THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO NEVER TREATED ME LIKE A MONSTER!
TORTURE BURNING?! IT'S UNACCEPTABLE THAT THEY SHOULD SUFFER SO BECAUSE OF ME!
.....
IT SEEMS THAT I'VE MISJUDGED YOU. FOR THAT, I AM SORRY.
BUT YOU ARE ALONE. THERE MUST BE SOMETHING I CAN DO
DON'T FRET, FATHER

YOU JUST NEED FAITH.

BURP-- A RIGHT TASTY MEAL!
AH... I MISS THE RUGGED, OUT-OF-DOORS LIFE.
HMPH.

NOW WHY THE LOOK OF GLOOM AND DOOM, EH?
TOMORROW WE UNCOVER THE TRUTH, RIGHT? IS THERE REALLY A BIG BLOODY SECRET ABOUT YOUR BEING BORN ? AND IF THERE IS, YOU'LL FINALLY KNOW
WHETHER YOU'RE SOME HIGH AND MIGHTY PRINCE, OR SOME BUM OFF THE STREET. BUT AT LEAST YOU'LL KNOW THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING.
BUT YOU'LL STILL BE YOU! THAT DON'T CHANGE, LAD.
AND ALTHOUGH A BIT COWARDLY AND INDECISIVE, YOU'RE THE BEST MATE I'VE EVER HAD, KAL.
I...
THANK YOU, RETT. I FEEL A LITTLE BETTER NOW.
DESH SHOULD REALLY BE HERE. HE MUST BE BORED STIFF
MAYBUS, YOU'RE FORGETTING THAT DESH CAN ONLY TRAVEL AT NIGHT.
AND BORED? HE'S PROBABLY PLAYING SLAP N' TICKLE WITH LEITH RIGHT NOW!

The Church's
Heretical Stockade
Commonly known as:
Pandemonium Prison

Lilith Sewing

덜컹
철커-
철커-
Do our accommodations suit you...
Miss Lilith Servino?
ARE YOU IN CHARGE HERE?!
THIS IS AN OUTRAGE, AND I DEMAND AN EXPLANATION!
Come now, Miss Servino surely you're not so naive?
YOU'VE BEEN ARRESTED FOR DEVIL WORSHIPPING AND WITCHCRAFT!
I'VE ALREADY HEARD THAT GIBBERISH--TELL ME THE REAL REASON!!
Gibberish? What a hurtful thing to say...
And besides...do I really have to have a reason?
ENOUGH. I CAN'T TALK TO YOU.
I KNOW AN OFFICER HERE DESHNITAT RUDBICH LET ME SPEAK TO HIM
Yes... and just what is your relationship with him?
I...He...
...He is my paramour.
HA HA HA HA HA !!!
Why are you laughing?!

You just confessed to your crimes heretic.
Deshwitat L. Rudbich is... the Devil incarnate!
YOU...YOU'RE INSANE!
Vampires... the spawn of satan
Ostensibly human in appearance with the exception of those dreadful fangs.
They control great evil powers and are nearly invulnerable
Their weakness? They can only come out at night
But their most disgusting attribute is their insatiable lust for human blood

DOES ANY OF THIS SOUND FAMILIAR...?
...YOUR BEAU, PERHAPS?
WHAT COMPLETE AND UTTER NONSENSE!
HEH HEH. A LOT TO ABSORB I'M SURE. POSSIBLY IF YOU HEARD IT FIRST-HAND FROM SOMEONE YOU TRUST. WOULD THAT HELP?
BRING HER IN
MISS DANUBE!
BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHY WOULD THEY ARREST YOU?!
HEH HEH... ENLIGHTEN HER, MISS DANUBE AS TO DESHUTAT'S TRUE IDENTITY
AFTER ALL, YOU'VE KNOWN HIM SINCE YOU WERE A CHILD, NO?
HE'S TALKING NONSENSE!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA...?
MISS DANUBE...?
IT'S... NOT TRUE... IS IT?
.....

TH-THEN IT IS TRUE..
DESHWITAT IS A... VA-VAMPIRE?!
파밍
AHA! I BELIEVE THE GUEST OF HONOR HAS ARRIVED!
AND AT SUCH AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT!
NOW I WANT YOU LADIES TO PAY CLOSE ATTENTION...
ドドドド

...FOR NOW HE REVEALS HIS TRUE IDENTITY!

CHAPTER 40:
POWER OF LIGHT

DESH...
DESHWITAT!
DESH!!
IT'S A TRAP, DESH!
THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU!!
DESH, CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

HA HA HA!
IT'S USELESS TO CALL TO HIM MISS LILITH.
THIS ROOM POSSESSES SOME RATHER UNIQUE PROPERTIES.
HE CAN NEITHER HEAR YOUR VOICE NOR SEE YOUR FACE.
MAGIC...?
DON'T TRY TO UNDERSTAND GIRL.
AND NOW... I MUST ATTEND TO OUR GUEST
ALARM!
ALARM!
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
THE WESTERN WALL HAS BEEN BREACHED!

TAKE SIEGE POSITIONS!
탕
탕
탕
탕
아
아
아

GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN
DESPITE MY RATHER DRAMATIC ENTRANCE...
...I'M NOT LOOKING FOR A FIGHT.
ONLY A FEW YEARS EARLIER I WOULD HAVE KILLED THE LOT OF YOU BEFORE YOU HAD EVEN HAD TIME TO ASSEMBLE
THAT WAS THEN. I AM NO LONGER THE MAN I ONCE WAS
YOU HOLD TWO WRONGLY ACCUSED WOMEN WITHIN THIS STOCKADE. THAT IS WHY I AM HERE
I HAVE NO WISH TO SPILL YOUR BLOOD TONIGHT.

NO DOUBT EACH ONE OF YOU HOPES TO SURVIVE THIS TO GO HOME TO YOUR LOVED ONES.
BELIEVE ME GENTLEMEN... I AM NOT WORTH DYING FOR
IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES, I BEG YOU TO RECONSIDER--
GO TO HELL, YOU MONSTER!
...?
HE IS JUST REALIZING THAT THESE MEN ARE ALL FROM CAPTAIN MAY'S COMPANY
THE SAME MEN HE HAS FOUGHT ALONGSIDE FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS.
OH THIS SHOULD BE ENTERTAINING. IF HE CHOOSES, RUDRICH CAN DISPATCH THE ENTIRE COMPANY WITH EASE.
THE PROBLEM IS THAT THEY ARE THE FIRST COMPATRIOTS HE'S KNOWN SINCE HE WAS BORN
QUITE AN INTERESTING TURN OF EVENTS, EH?
HA HA HA. THE SUSPENSE IS ALMOST UNBEARABLE, IS IT NOT?
BUT IF HE DOESN'T FIGHT
HE SACRIFICES NOT ONLY HIS OWN LIFE, BUT THAT OF HIS BELOVED
WHAT EVER SHALL HE DO?!
YOU'LL DECEIVE US NO LONGER!
WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE, HELLSPAWN!
I'LL KILL YOU, YOU DEMON!
NO...YOU'RE ALL FROM...?
HA HA HA! OH, YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS, MISS LILITH!

FRANCIS! SCHULTZ! JOHNSON!
MARTINEZ! CARTER! WHY ARE YOU...?!
SHUT YOUR GOB, YOU FILTHY DEVIL!
WE TRUSTED YOU, YOU BASTARD!
PLEASE... I DIDN'T...
YOU KNOW WHAT HE IS, LADS! KILL THE DEMON!
AYYYY!!
KILL HIM!
HARRH!
DIE!!
ETETD
YAAAH!
WAIT! MARTINEZ, I CAN...
II
DESHWITAT !!
OH, IT WILL TAKE MUCH MORE THAN THAT TO HARM YOUR VAMPIRE.

CARE TO JOIN US IN A DRINK, SIR?
NO THANK YOU, MARTINEZ. I'D NEVER KEEP UP WITH YOU!
DIE YOU MONSTER!!
THAT LADY LILITH'S A BIT OF ALL RIGHT, AIN'T SHE?
WATCH IT, JONES!
TAKE THIS!

COMMANDER RUDBICH! YOU CAME!
NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, WE'RE ASSURED A VICTORY!
THIS TIME SAVE A FEW OF THE ROTTERS FOR US, SIR! HA HA!

HOW... COULD YOU...?
YOU KNOW, I THOUGHT HE'D PUT UP MORE OF A FIGHT!
HAH!
HE ONLY LOOKED FIERCE FIGHTIN' ALONGSIDE RETT BUTLER!
HE'S NOT SO TOUGH BY HIMSELF!
OH, NO... DESHWITAT!

BASTARD! NOT SO HIGH AND MIGHTY NOW, ARE YOU?!
WE ONLY TOLERATED YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE MAYBUS' LAPDOG!
COME HERE FOR THAT SERVINO STRUMPET, DID YA'?
BUT NOW HIS ARSE IS IN THE FIRE, JUST LIKE YOURS! HA!
DON'T WORRY! THE BITCH WILL JOIN YA' IN HELL SOON ENOUGH!
HELLO! WOT'S THIS..?
IS HE...? HE'S CRYIN'!
HWA HA HA! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
THAT SHOULD JUST ABOUT DO IT.
I'M SURPRISED HE'S RESTRAINED HIMSELF THIS MUCH.
KEEP WATCHING... YOU'RE in FOR A REAL TREAT, MISS LILITH.

DAMN YOU ALL...
TASTE...
...JACK'S KISS!

HA
HA

HA
HA

WHAT IN THE NAME OF GOD?!
MONSTERS ...!!
AAAIEEEEE!!!
HE IS A DEVIL! HE CONTROLS THEM!
KILL THEM . DESTROY THEM..
EVERY LAST... ONE OF THEM...

HURK!
GYAAA!
HELP!
URGH!
AH-AH-
AYEE!

OH
OOOOOO
EGH
EGH
KKKK

DAMN YOU...
DO YOU SEE IT NOW, MISS LILITH?
THE DARK TERROR OF HIS EVIL POWERS...
YOU CALL HIM...
...TERRIFYING...EVIL?
I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW SOME WOULD...
...AND YET, TO ME, HE SEEMS SO VERY TRAGIC.
YOU CALL HIM EVIL...
BUT FROM WHERE I STAND...
YOU ARE THE PERPETRATOR OF THE EVIL HERE TONIGHT

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO AGREE TO DISAGREE.
NOW LET'S RETURN OUR ATTENTION TO OUR MUTUAL FRIEND SHALL WE?
HEH HEH HEH...
THAT IS QUITE POSSIBLE, MY DEAR.
번쩍

URK?!

AHH!
ENERGY BOLTS! AT INCREDIBLE SPEED!
THEY MUST BE LIGHT-BASED. MY WOUNDS AREN'T HEALING!
IT IS A FORCE THE LIKES OF WHICH I'VE NEVER FELT!
YOU'VE COME.
...TO THE WRONG PLACE, DEMON SEED!
BUT YOU'RE...?!
I KNOW THIS MAN! HE IS CARDINAL JOSIMOV...KAL'S SUPERIOR!
HA HA HA!
DID YOU TAKE LILITH?!

HA!
AAHK!

YOU ARE BEATEN!
YOU CANNOT DEFEAT ME!
NOT NOW!
IS THIS POWER COMING FROM HIM?
LET ME SHOW YOU THE DIFFERENCE IN OUR POWERS, DEMON
TRY NOT TO DIE—WE STILL HAVE NEED OF YOU.
KAHH!

GRAND HOLY ORB!!
HHRAAHH!!
THIS IS INSANE! I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH ENERGY!

HAHR!
URRGH!
NO...DESH!!
DESHWITAT!!
DESHWITAT!!
YOU SEE IN THIS WORLD...
...ONE TRUTH REMAINS CONSTANT.
AAAHH!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS?

"THE POWER OF DARKNESS CANNOT STAND AGAINST THE LIGHT"!
IT IS AN UNALTERABLE FACT!
NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME PASSES... YOU CANNOT DEFEAT ME.
COUGH
COUGH
GO...
...TO HELL!

HA! HARDLY AN ORIGINAL RETORT!
SHALL I SHATTER HIM COMPLETELY OR MAYBE
YOU LEAVE HIM ALONE!
탓
OOF?!
HAH!

OOH... WHA--?!
WHAT.. AM I DOING?
DESH-- RUN!
HUFF
HURRY!!
I'M INJURED WORSE THAN I THOUGHT. I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO RESCUE LILITH IN THIS CONDITION
HUFF
I NEED TO RETREAT AND REGROUP
DAMN IT!

YOU MAY UNHAND ME NOW WOMAN
YOUR PRECIOUS VAMPIRE HAS ESCAPED
SNIFF
SNIFF
YOU BEAST!
WHILE YOU HAVE HELPED HIM ESCAPE FOR NOW...
YOU MAY SOON WISH HE HAD DIED BY MY HAND TONIGHT

CHAPTER 41 - A: PRELUDE TO TRAGEDY

I DON'T LIKE IT...
MR. RUDBICH WAS DUE TO RETURN NEARLY AN HOUR AGO
I CERTAINLY HOPE NOTHING HAS GONE WRONG
NO, I'M SURE HE'S FINE.
WITH MR. DESHWITAT'S FIGHTING ABILITY, HE'S MORE THAN CAPABLE OF TAKING CARE OF HIMSELF.
IT'S HIS OPPONENTS WHO SHOULD BE WORRIED
I ONLY HOPE HE WAS ABLE TO SAVE THE WOMEN WITH A MINIMUM OF BLOOD-SHED.
AAH ...?!

MR...?
MR. RUDBICH?!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?!
STILL...
...HAVE... LILITH!
?!
MR. RUDBICH-- DESHWITAT!

IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN... THIS IS IT.
UH-HUH...
NICE PLACE TO GROW OLD AND DIE, I'D IMAGINE.
THIS IS WHERE I'LL LEARN...
...THE SECRET OF MY BIRTH!
HEY! SNAP OUT OF IT, YA NINNY.
QUIT YER FRETTING AND LET'S GET DOWN THERE, KAL!

RIGHT AS ALWAYS..
..MY FRIEND.
'COURSE I AM.
THANKS RETT.
EH...WHAT FOR?
OH... EVERY-THING.
NOW WHAT'RE YOU...

PHFT
PHFT
FATHER, YOU HAVE COMPANY..
EH?
COMPANY..? I'M NOT EXPECTING ANYONE
WELL, ONE IS A MAN OF MEANS, AND THE OTHER IS ..BIG
SO, SEND THEM IN, CHILD!

HELLO, SIR. HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
OH... OH! KA-KALUTIKA!!
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, YOU COME TO VISIT AN OLD MAN!
PLEASE, SIR! DON'T GET UP ON MY ACCOUNT.
AND YOUR FATHER. HE IS WELL?
UH... YES.
MISS DANUBE MUST BE A REAL BEAUTY
SHE IS.
SO.. WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
YES... WELL...

THERE IS SOMETHING...
CONCERNING MY BIRTH...A SECRET, THAT I MUST KNOW
AAH!
YOU WERE WITH MY FATHER FROM BEFORE I WAS BORN... I THOUGHT THAT PERHAPS...
THAT'S...
WHERE DID YOU HEAR SUCH A STORY?!
SO YOU DO KNOW SOMETHING!
WHAT IS IT? WHAT IS THE SECRET OF MY BIRTH?
PLEASE TELL ME!
NO! I...!

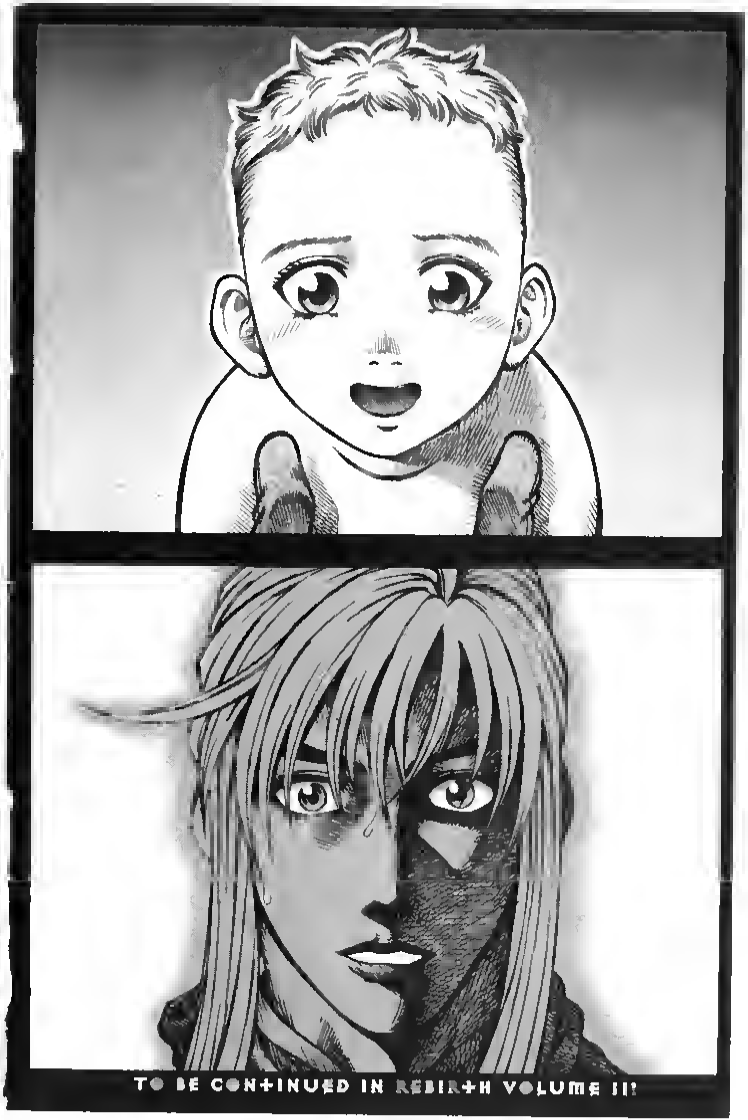
OH...VERY WELL.
YOU OBVIOUSLY KNOW SOMETHING, AND I'M TOO OLD TO CARE
BESIDES... YOU'RE A GROWN MAN. YOU'VE A RIGHT TO KNOW
IT WAS THE MOST AMAZING THING I'VE EVE...SEEN...
IT MAY SOUND FANTASTIC, BUT I SWEAR IT'S ALL TRUE
IT HAPPENED TWENTY-SIX YEARS AGO...

YOUR MOTHER HAD PASSED AWAY AFTER YOUR SISTER'S BIRTH, AND YOUR FATHER WAS A VERY UNHAPPY MAN.
ATCHI!
EVEN HUNTING NO LONGER BROUGHT HIM ANY JOY.
MY LIFE IS SHIT! MY WIFE DIES AFTER ONLY LEAVING ME A DAUGHTER!
I NEEDED A SON SOMEONE TO TEACH HOW TO HUNT... TO CARRY ON MY NAME!
HIS FAVORITE HUNTING GROUNDS WERE A PLACE OF BEAUTY.
I REMEMBER THE LADY MAYBUS USED TO CALL IT "ENCHANTED."

THEN, JUST AS WE WERE ABOUT TO LEAVE... A BRILLIANT, FIERY BALL DESCENDED FROM THE SKY!
WHA..? IS IT A COMET?!
HURRY!
YES, SIRE!

WHAT IN THE BLAZES IS THAT?!
IT APPEARS TO BE AN... EGG, SIRE!
TRI
TRI
TRI
EFE

YOU MUST REMEMBER...AT THAT MOMENT, YOUR FATHER WANTED A SON...
HA HA HA HA...
...MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD
A MAGIC SON, BORN IN A MAGIC FOREST!
GAH?
AHH...HE'LL MAKE A FINE HEIR TO THE MAYBUS NAME!
HA HA HA HA HA!
DO I NEED TO TELL YOU NOT TO UTTER A WORD OF THIS, EVER?
DO I?!
N-NO, SIRE!


TO BE CONTINUED IN REBIRTH VOLUME II!

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